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THE TOWNE FAMILY

Family of William Towne of Salem, Massachusetts



## THE TOWNE FAMILY.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — *b.*, denotes born; *d.*, died; *bap.*, baptized; *m.*, married; *daug.*, daughter; and *a +* against the name of an individual, that a notice of the party follows. The Roman numerals opposite the name of a person at the commencement of a paragraph, denote the generation of the individual in this country, commencing with William Towne of Anglo-American origin.

THE name of *Towne*, or *Town* and *Towns*, as it is sometimes spelt, is not one of frequent occurrence. It may however be found here and there, generally in communities of Anglo-Saxon derivation, and though surnames began to be used in England about the time of the Norman Conquest, and from century to century for three or four centuries continued to be adopted till they came into general use, this does not seem to be one that met with much favor. The earliest existence of it known to the writer is A.D. 1274, when Wm. de la Towne, of Alvely, a village in the county of Shropshire, England, about 20 miles S. E. of Shrewsbury, the capital of the county, was at that time engaged in the prosecution of a suit at law against one of the officers of the parish, and the following year was on a jury at Astley in the same county. The next we hear of it, is one hundred and thirty or forty years later, in the reign of Henry IV., when upon the windows of the church in Kennington, Kent co., impaled with that of Ellis of the same place, were the arms of a family by this name, being argent, on a chevron, sable, three cross-croslets, ermine. Thomas at Towne, who at this time possessed much land about Charing, and who bore the same coat of arms, married Benedicta, only daughter of John Brampton, alias Detling, of Detling Court, and thereby inherited a manor in Throwley, where he removed and erected a seat about one fourth of a mile from the church and named it “Towne Place,” soon after which he died, leaving his possessions to three daughters, co-heiresses, of whom Eleanor married Richard Lewknor of Challock, Bennet or Benedicta married Wm. Watton of Addington, and Elizabeth became the wife of Wm. Sondes, of the same parish. His estate was divided about A.D. 1416, when Throwley was allotted to Eleanor the wife of Richard Lewknor. From the manner of the division it is quite



evident that he died without leaving descendants to transmit his name to posterity.\*

The next reference to this name known to the writer is in the county of Lincoln, where it has existed for more than four centuries. In A.D. 1459, Wm. Towne, D.D., was collated† at Stow in Lindsey, in this County‡—and in A.D. 1470, was appointed Almoner to King Henry VI., in accordance with the following commission, the original of which is in Latin.

*Concerning the goods of such as commit suicide and the collection of things given or forfeited to God.*

The KING to all, to whom, &c. Greeting.

Although we refer to it with grief, divers persons of our realm, unmindful of the salvation of their souls, laying aside the fear of God, consenting to diabolical instigation, frequently destroy themselves, as well by hanging as by the sword, by drowning or other methods,

Whose goods and chattels, by right of Our Crown, ought to accrue to Our Almonry [or fund for benevolence], as the goods and chattels are known to do of those, who, without intention, by accident, may have unfortunately killed or caused the death of Our subjects, as horses, carts, chariots, ships, boats, and such like, commonly called Deodands,

Nevertheless, at the wary suggestion of some of our subjects, goods and chattels of this kind are fraudulently withdrawn from our aforesaid Almonry, and, as is said, are not at all applied to it,

We, considering the premises, have, of our special grace, granted, so far as in us lies, to our beloved Clerk [or clergyman] *William Towne*, Our Almoner, in augmentation of our Fund for Alms, all the goods and chattels aforesaid, forfeited (?) by the death of persons, as above, who destroy themselves; which goods, chattels and Deodands now belong or ought to belong to Us, in any place within our realm of England, from the beginning of our reign to the present time, and for the period in which he has been Our Almoner,

Moreover, appointing him Our Almoner to make inquiry, from time to time, as often as may be necessary, respecting goods, chattels and Deodands of such kind as aforesaid, and to seize on, take and carry off the same, by himself, or his deputy, or sufficient deputies wherever they may be found within our kingdom, as well within the liberties as without,

And to distribute them, thus levied and collected, by himself for Us in Alms, wherever he may think it best,

\* Harris, Hasteds and Ireland's Histories of Kent.

† Became the Clergyman of the Parish.

‡ Willis's History of Cathedrals.



Commanding and prescribing to all and singular the Viscounts, Mayors, Bailiffs, Coroners, Escheators, Constables, and all other Our officers and servants, as well within the liberties as without, and to each of them, by the tenor of these presents, that, in the execution of the premises, they be supporters, superintenders, comforters, aids and defenders to Our aforesaid Almoner, and his said deputies, under the peril which threatens them;

Any statute, resumption, authority of Parliament, or of Our Council, made or to be made in this behalf, or any other thing, cause or matter whatever to the contrary held, done, or perpetrated, notwithstanding.

In testimony whereof, &c.

Witness, the King, at *Westminster*, on the tenth day of December, A.D. 1470.\*

In old age he accepted an income† from the parish, and died A.D. 1496.

In 1470, John Towne, Professor of Divinity, succeeded Alexander Prowett as Precentor‡ of Lincoln, which place he resigned in 1473 for the Prebend of Dunholme.§ John Towne of Irby, County of Lincoln, made his will Nov. 18, 1540. To be buried in the Church of St. Andrew at Irby. Legacies to Anne, Thomas and George Towne, his brother Wm. of Irby being principal heir and executor. This will was proved June 1, 1541. John Towne of Ludborough, County of Lincoln, executed his will under date of Jan. 24, 1637—sons Leonard, John, and William, and brother Richard Towne.||

Richard Towne of Braceby, in the same County, m. Ann —— and had children as follows: Richard, who died in 1617, leaving wife Alice, son Leonard, and dau. Hellen not twenty-one years of age; Edward, who had children in 1630; Elizabeth, who m. —— Phillips; Hellen, who m. —— Oxman; Prudence, who m. —— Walton; Ann, who m. —— Armestone; Katherine, bap. Oct. 14, 1599; Mary, bap. April 15, 1601; William, bap. May 21, 1603; and Margery.¶

\* Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. xi. pp. 668-9.

† His income was £6 13s. 4d. per annum, and he was buried in Kings College Chapel with this epitaph :

Hic Jaet Magister  
Will. Towne Doctor in Theologia quondam  
Socius hujus collegii qui obiit 11 die  
Mensis Marti anno Incarnationis  
Dominice MCCCCXCVI.

‡ The leader of the Choir in a Cathedral—called also the Chantor or Master of the Choir.

§ Willis's *History of Cathedrals*.

|| Lincoln County Wills.

¶ *Ibid.*



The following is a copy of the will of his widow, dated the tenth day of Dec., 1629, and proved on the tenth day of May, 1630. As it quite fully enumerates the household articles then in use in one of the better class of English families, thereby furnishing an index to their manner of life at that period, it is deemed worthy of preservation.

In the name of God. Amen. I, Ann Towne, of Bracebie in y<sup>e</sup> Countie of Lincoln, widdowe, sieke in bodye but whole & p'secte of mind & memorye thanks bee unto God, doe make this my last will & Testam<sup>t</sup> in maner and forme followyng. first I comitt myselfe to the mercy of Almighty god, my Creato<sup>r</sup>, redemer & soule sa-  
vioure, in & by whome I hooke for resurrection to eternall life, & my bodye to be buried in ye meane time in y<sup>e</sup> Chapell of Bracebie aforesaid. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to y<sup>e</sup> poore of Bracebie syue shillings. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to my sonne Edward Towne, one silver salte peell gilte, one peece of gold of xj, one pe of lyninge sheets. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to my daughter Elisabeth Phillip xx<sup>s</sup>. & one linnen bordcloth. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to my daughter Hellen Oxman, one linnen bordcloth & xx<sup>s</sup>. to buye her a feath<sup>r</sup> bedd ticke & one kertle. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to my daughter Prudence Walton, xx<sup>s</sup>. & one linnen bordcloth. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to my daughter Ann Arnstone, xx<sup>s</sup>. the best Coveringe but one, one sheete w<sup>th</sup> a black seameinge, one longe bordcloth, twoe pillowe beares of y<sup>e</sup> same, one pe. of harden sheets, one pe. curtens. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give my daughter Katherine Towne, one bedstead w<sup>th</sup> featherbed & matris, one tarlinge boulster, one tycke boulster, two fustine pillowes, one pe. of blancketts w<sup>th</sup> broad yellowe lists, two Coverings, one blacke & yellowe, y<sup>e</sup> oth<sup>r</sup> the best, one pe. curtins of my own makinge, one lynen bordcloth, one flax harden bordcloth, one brended Cowe, three pe. hempen sheets, three pe. Lynen sheets, one sheet w<sup>th</sup> a seameinge of my owne makinge, twoe pillowe beares of y<sup>e</sup> same, halfe a dozen of hemp midlaie napkins, one little putr dishe, one brasse paun, one charger, halfe a dozen of pewter spoones, one lynen towell and xx<sup>s</sup>. in monye. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to my daughter Mary Towne, one matteress, one ticke boulster, one bedstead, twoe tartlinge pillowes, twoe coverings, one blacke & white, the oth<sup>r</sup> white, one pe. tartlinge blancketts, two pe. of hempen sheets, one pe. Lynen sheets, one pe. harden sheets, one Lynen towell, halfe a dozen napkins, one pyde Cowe, one Charger, one little pewter dishe, one sauser, one brasse pott and xx<sup>s</sup>. in money. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to my daughter Margery Towne, one silke apron. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to my grand child Ellen Towne, one ewe. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to every godechild xij<sup>d</sup>. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to every grandchild ij. vj<sup>d</sup>. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to my grandchild Katheren Phillip one pe. hempen sheets. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to my sonne Edward's children Twoe sheepe. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to my daughter Elizabeth her children Twoe sheepe. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to my daughter Ellen her children Twoe sheepe. Ite<sup>m</sup>. I give to my daughter



Prudence her children Twoe sheepe. Itē<sup>m</sup>. I give to my sister Ellen Parker, one silke doublet. Itē<sup>m</sup>. I give to my grandchild Leonard Towne, one cheste standing at y<sup>e</sup> bedds feete in the chamber. Itē<sup>m</sup>. I give to Richard Chapman ij<sup>t</sup>. vj<sup>d</sup>. All the rest of my goods & chattles, my debts & legacies beinge payde, my funerall & testant expences discharged. I give them to my sonne Will<sup>m</sup> Towne, my sonne whome I make & ordayne full executo<sup>r</sup> of this my last will & testamē. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand the xth daye of Decemb<sup>r</sup>, 1629.

Redd, published & delivered as my will in the p'resence of Katherine Towne, Marye Towne.

The earliest we find the name in this country is 1635, when Wm. Towne was an inhabitant of Cambridge. On the 18th of the 2d month, [April] 1637, he appeared before the General Court and took the requisite oath to become a freeman or voter.

The following is a copy of the oath as then administered, and indicates the importance our fathers attached to the right of suffrage, and the care and vigilance used to preserve, protect and perpetuate the government they had so recently established.

"I — — — being, by Gods proviencē, an inhabitant & freeman within the jurisdiccon of this commonweale, doe freely acknowledge my selfe to be subiect to the governm<sup>t</sup> thereof, & therefore doe heere sweare, by the greate & dreadfull naue of the euerlyveing God, that I wilbe true & faithful to the same & will accordingly yeilde assistance & support therevnto, with my pson & estate as in equity I am bound, & will also truely indeav<sup>r</sup> to mainetaine & preserue all the libertyes & previlidges thereof, submitting my selfe to the wholesome lawes & orders made & established by the same; and furth<sup>r</sup>, that I will not plott nor practise any evill against it, nor consent to any that shall see doe, but will timely discover & reveale the same to lawfull aucthority nowe here established, for the speedy preventing thereof. Moreoner, I doe solemnly bynde *my* myselfe in the sight of God, that when I shalbe called to give my voice touching any such matter of this state, wherein freemen are to deale, I will give my vote & suffrage, as I shall iudge in myne owne conscience may best conduce & tend to the publique weale of the body, without respect of psons or fav<sup>r</sup> of any man. Soe helpe mee God, in the Lord Jesus Christ."

He was Town Clerk in 1639, purchased land at Cambridge in 1653, of David Stone and Thomas Danforth, and in 1655 of Edmund Goffe, was tythingman in 1680, and died April 30, 1685, aged 80 years. Amount of his Estate, £118 13s. 6d. The name of his wife was Martha, and she died in Jan., 1674. Their children were: Peter, born



in England about the beginning of the year 1633; and Mary, born at Cambridge in 1637. Peter married, first, Joaana; second, Elizabeth, who was living and was of Braintree in 1721. He was Administrator of the Estate of his father, and from its settlement appears to have been an only son; was a constable at Cambridge, in 1668, '76, '90, '91 and '94, selectman in 1695, and died Nov. 2, 1705, aged 72 ys. 10 mos. His name may be found upon a Tombstone at Cambridge, with the inscription partially obliterated. The following is a copy of his Will,\* and the final settlement of his estate indicates that he left no one to transmit his name to posterity, and that with the death of his widow the name became extinct so far as it relates to this family at Cambridge.

In y<sup>e</sup> name of God. Amen. I, Peter Town, of Cambridg in New England, being Weak in Body, but of sound mind, do make this my last Will and Testam<sup>t</sup>. Impr. I com'd my Soul to y<sup>e</sup> mercy of God in Jesus Christ, and my body to y<sup>e</sup> Grave decently to be buryed without profuseness according to y<sup>e</sup> discretion of those whom I shall constitute y<sup>e</sup> Overseers of this my Last Will and Testam<sup>t</sup>; and as to my Temporall Estat<sup>t</sup> my Will is that it be thus disposed of: First of all, I Will and bequeath to my Dear Wife the whole of my Real Estate, to be quietly enjoyed and possessed by her so Long as she shall continue my Widow. It. I will and bequeath to my dear Wife, the sum of one hundred pounds money, to be disposed of by her as she shall see meet. Item. I will and bequeath to my Dear Wife, my silver Cups, my beds and bedding, all my Pewter and brass, and all my other household stuff to her and her heirs forever. Item. I will and bequeath to my Dear Wife y<sup>e</sup> three Gold Rings as also y<sup>e</sup> three pounds odd money mainly French money, w<sup>ch</sup> is in a small purse, to her and her heirs forever. Item. I Will and bequeath to my Brother Samuel Pain, of Brantrey, y<sup>e</sup> sum of three pounds money to be paid w<sup>ch</sup> in six months after my decease. Item. My Will is with respect to my Negro Servants, That Mingo shall have his freedom when he gains his health as soon as he pleases, and y<sup>t</sup> in the mean tim<sup>e</sup> he be carefully look'd after and maintained out of my estate: That Charles shall faithfully Serve my Wife y<sup>e</sup> full term of four years after my decess<sup>t</sup>, and that then he have his Freedom: Only in cas<sup>e</sup> my Wife marries before y<sup>e</sup> Term of four years be expired, then Charles upon her marriage have his freedom: That Fidella live w<sup>th</sup> my Wife and serve her faithfully y<sup>e</sup> space of seven years after my decease, and in case my wife continue my Widow three years more than thes<sup>e</sup> seven years and need Fidella's help, then Fidella shall Live three years longer with my wife and then have her freedom; And if my Wife dyes before Fidella comes to y<sup>e</sup> age of twenty years, then my will is that Fidella shall be put into

\* Inventory of his estate, £757. 14s.



some sober Religious family at y<sup>e</sup> discretion and according to the direction of my Overseers, to live there as a servant till she come to be twenty years old, and Fidella to have y<sup>e</sup> benefit and advantage of w<sup>t</sup> should be allowed her for her service in y<sup>e</sup> said time, then to have her Freedom. Item. My Will is, that as my servants come to have their freedom They shall each have ten pounds money paid them by my Executrix: And if either dyes before y<sup>e</sup> time of their freedom their Legacye to go to y<sup>e</sup> surviving, and be equally divided among y<sup>m</sup>. Item. My Will is, That when my wife dy<sup>s</sup> or ceases to be my Widow, Then the whole of my Real Estate shall be divided among my five first cousins living at Bridgewater, viz.: my cousin John Howard, my cousin Nathaniel Howard, my cousin Joseph Howard, my cousin Elisha Howard, and my cousin Mary Mitchell, to be unto them and their heirs forever. Provided, however, and it is my Will, that in case my cousin Joseph Howard will give to Stephen his Negro servant his freedom, when he comes to be six and twenty years old, then he shall have twenty pounds more of this my Real Estate when it comes to be Divided, than my other cousins, and that otherwise he shall have no interest therein. Item. My Will is, that my once negro servant Jane, who lives at Boston, shall have y<sup>e</sup> sum of five pounds paid her w<sup>t</sup> in six months after my decease: Also, I will and bequeath to my wife's mother (Hannah Willbur) the sum of three pounds money, to be paid in three months after my deceas<sup>e</sup>:-And if so much of my estate shall after all this remain undisposed of by me my Will is, that thirty pounds shall be paid to y<sup>e</sup> easing of y<sup>e</sup> poorer sort of people in Cambridge, y<sup>t</sup> shall be rated to y<sup>e</sup> building a new meeting house at y<sup>e</sup> discretion and ordering of my Overseers, Deacon Hastings and Sam'l Cooper being joyned w<sup>t</sup> them: Provided and it being still my Will, y<sup>t</sup> the Town w<sup>t</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> space of three months after my decease do meet and by a Publick Vote agree upon y<sup>s</sup> new building to be begun, and set about forthwith, as also y<sup>t</sup> they do not put my Dear Wife or any part of her estate into y<sup>e</sup> Rate for the said building when they come to make the rate: Otherwise, what I have Willed with respect to the New Meeting house shall be altogether Void and insignificant. And as to w<sup>t</sup> shall yet remain undisposed of by me, I will and bequeath y<sup>e</sup> Improvement and use of it to my Dear Wife so long as she shall continue my Widow, to be improved by her for her comfort and support, It being provided y<sup>t</sup> she does not run y<sup>e</sup> hazzard of loosing y<sup>e</sup> money by letting it to one person or another, and at her death or marriage w<sup>t</sup> remains shall be equally disposed of and divided among my five cousins aforementioned. Ite. My Will is, that my loving and trusty friends Nath<sup>l</sup> Hancock, sen., Solomon Prentiss, sen., and Nicholas Fessenden, sen., be y<sup>e</sup> Overseers of y<sup>t</sup> my Last Will and



Testament, and that they be each allowed y<sup>e</sup> sum of Twenty shillings money. Finally I do constitute and appoint my Dear Wife y<sup>e</sup> sole executrix of this my Will.

In Witness to all web I hereby set my hand and seal this Twenty-eighth day of May, in y<sup>e</sup> year of Our Lord On<sup>e</sup> Thousand Seven hundred and five. A memorandum before signuig. That it is my desire y<sup>t</sup> my Dear Wife do let Mr. Nicholas Fessenden, School master, have five pounds as a token of my respect to him, unless my wife shall want it for her own comfort—she to be judge. PETER TOWNE [L.S.]

Signed, sealed and published in presence of William Brattle, Nath'l Hancock, sen., Owen Warland.

We now come to WILLIAM TOWNE, the Anglo-American progenitor of descendants who have settled in a majority of the States of the American Union. Of his birth-place or parentage we know nothing positively, though he may have come from the County of Lincoln in England, and may have been the son of Richard and Ann Towne, of Bracby.

The earliest positive information we have relative to him is at Yarmouth, Norfolk Co., a city of considerable maritime importance, situated on the East coast of England, one hundred and eight miles in a direct line, and 120 miles by railroad northeast of London.

The origin and early history of this place, like many others in the British Kingdom, is quite obscure. The Romans, in the first century of the Christian Era, had a frontier military post\* near here, and later it was called Cerdick's sand, or Cerdick's shore, deriving its name from Cerdick, a warlike Saxon, who, A.D. 496, with his son Cenrick, and a fleet of five ships, invaded the country at this point, entered the mouth of the river Yare, fought a battle, put the Britons to flight, and founded a colony. It being a low marshy neighborhood, the location proved unhealthy, the settlement was finally abandoned, and the colony took up their residence with the West Saxons.† Henry

\* The fortification is about three miles west of the city, and was erected by *Publius Ostorius* about the middle of the first century. This noble monument of Roman art, the most considerable, and perhaps the most perfect to be found in Britain, is built upon the brow of the hills which skirt the eastern bank of the river Waveney at its confluence with the Yare. Quadrilateral in its form, it makes an almost regular parallelogram, its length being 640 feet and its breadth 370 feet, the space within the walls of the camp comprising nearly six acres. The walls are about 10 feet in height, about 9 feet in thickness, and are constructed of rubble masonry, faced with flint, interlaced in regular courses of about 21 inches by three layers of tiles or bricks about 2 inches apart. The bricks are red, of a fine close texture, and as they lay in the wall a surface is exposed 1½ by 9 inches, and so solid and enduring is the masonry that the writer found it difficult, without the aid of tools, to procure on the premises a piece of the flint and brick an inch square, as a sample of the material of which the wall was built, and a memento of a visit to this interesting locality.

† Blomefield and Parkin's History of Norfolk, and Swinden's History of Yarmouth.



Manship, Sen., a merchant in 1560, the reputed author of a very reliable and carefully prepared manuscript history of the place, who tells us he was here "bredd and borne," thus speaks of its origin. "First of the Antiquytye of the Towne and Burroughle of Greate Yermouth. The verye seate of that Towne, that ys to saye, the place and grounde whereupon the Towne is buylded, and nowe dothe stand, was percell of a greate sande lyinge within the mayne sea, at the mouthe of the flud or ryver called Hiers, beinge contynuallye under water and overflown with the sea, of which ryver the name of the same Towne was derived when it was firste named, vidz. Hiermouth, or otherwise without aspiration it was called Yermouth. And the tyme that y<sup>t</sup> was a sand in the sea was when Kynge Canutus reigned in Englande and longe before, whiche was abonte the yere of our Savior Jesus Christe, his Incarnacion, One Thousand, as by auncyente recordes thereof y<sup>t</sup> doeth appeare."

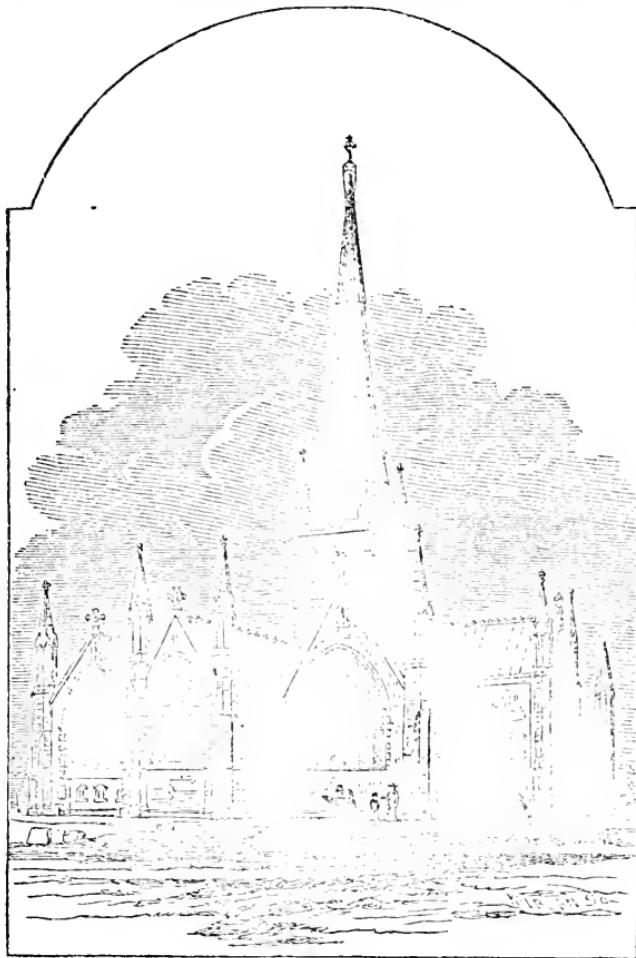
He further says, that "In the tyme of the Reigne of Kinge Edwardre the Confessor, the saide sand beganne to growe into sight at the lowe water, and in the tymes of the Reyngnes of Kinge Harrolde and Kinge William y<sup>e</sup> Conqueror, the saide sande did growe to be drye, and was not overflowen by the Sea, but waxed in heighth, and also in greatness, in so muche as greate store of people of the Countys of Norffl. and Suffolke did resorte thither, and did pitche Tabernacles and Boothes for the entertaynenge of such Seafaring men and Fishermen and Merchants as wold resorte unto that place, either to sell their Herringes,\* fish and other comodities, and for providenge suche things as those Seamen did neede and wante. The which things caused greate stere of Seafaringe men to resorte thither; but especiallie the Fishermen of this Land; as also greate nombrs of the Fishermen of Fraunce, Flaunders, and of Holland, Zealand, and all the lowe Countryes. And in the tyme of the Reigne of Kinge William Rufus, Kinge of this Realme, one Herbertus, Bisbopp of the see of Norwich,† perceyveng greate resorte and concourse of people to be daylie and yerclie upon the said Sande, and intendinge to provide for there sowles healthe, did founde and buylde upon the said Sande a certen Chappell for the devotion of the people resorting thither, and therein did place a Chappelayne of his owne to say and read divine service."

\* Celebrated at the present time for its Herring Fisheries, there having been exported to Foreign Ports from Yarmouth, in 1860, 51,684 bbls.; in 1861, 35,819 bbls.; 1862, 44,786 bbls.; 1863, 41,317 bbls.; and in 1864, 38,522; in addition to which, large quantities are forwarded to London by rail for exportation from that port.

† Herbert de Lossing, Bishop of Norwich, came from Normandy with William Rufus, and for his skill in adulatation, says William of Malmesbury, was surnamed the flatterer. He was cited before Pope Pascal II. at Rome in 1093, for simoniacal practices, and according to the *Saxon Chronicle*, was deprived of his pastoral staff in 1094; but this was restored on his undertaking to employ his wealth in the building of churches; in fulfilment of which, the one under consideration was founded. He was a man of great learning and eloquence, was at one period Lord Chancellor of England, died in 1119, and was buried in the Cathedral at Norwich.



In this church, founded in A.D. 1123, dedicated to St. Nicholas in 1251,\* and still retaining the name, were married, March 25, 1620,



CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS.

\* The extreme length of this structure is 230 feet, its greatest width 151 feet. The lot, upon which the church stands, contains upwards of eight acres, and the writer noticed the following New England names upon the Tombstones, viz.: Bailey, Briggs, Bowles, Cobb, Clarke, Collins, Carr, Dawson, Ellis, Edwards, Fiske, Fowler, Forster, Fuller, Francis, Giles, Gray, Goldard, Hunt, Herbert, Johnson, Kemp, Lowe, Lawrence, Lee, Marston, Marshall, Moore, Mason, Nichols, Pearson, Plummer, Pearce, Reed, Read, Shepard, Symonds, Simpson, Seaman, Shreve, Thornton, Thompson, Wright, Wales and Wilson; also the name of Matthew Champion, who died Oct. 8, 1793, aged 111 years; and the following suggestive inscription upon the tomb-stone of a mariner.

"This life's a voyage, the world's a sea,  
Where men are strangely toss'd about,  
Heaven's our port, steer thou that way;  
There thou shall anchor safe, no doubt."



William Towne and Joanna Blessing, and here their six first children were baptized. The next we hear of this family is at Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, where in the book of early grants appears the following: "11. 8 mo., 1640, Granted to Wm. Towne, a little neck of Land right over against his house on the other side of the river." He is also referred to in the Court Records of the same year thus: "17<sup>th</sup> Qt., last of 4<sup>th</sup> mo. and 1. 5<sup>th</sup> mo. 1640. Wm. Towne pl. agt. Jn<sup>o</sup> Cook def. in act. of debt, Jury find for pl. some to be deputed to measure John Cook's land and what is remaining to make up Goodman Towne's land and if it be fyve acres to pay Towne fyve marks and w<sup>t</sup> is wanting of fyve acres to abate 13s. 4d. p. acre: And costs 4s.: 0." Wm. Towne's residence was in that part of Salem known as the "North-fields," and he remained at this place till 1651, the year following the incorporation of the town of Topsfield, when he purchased a tract of land in the latter place of Wm. Paine, of Ipswich, "containing forty acres of ground or thereabouts, whereof six acres is by the cellar which Wm. Howard of Topsfield built, and about thirty-two acres joining up to the sayd six acres eastward of it, part of which is plow ground, another part is meadow, another part is upland unplowed, all lying together, having the meadow and the plow ground of the said Wm. Howard towards the east and the ground of Walter Roper towards the North and a Sertaine River towards the Sonth or South West. Also a little piece of meddow of about two acres lying on the South side of the river directly against the plains of the said Wm. Howard, having y<sup>e</sup> grounds of the said Wm. Howard towards y<sup>e</sup> East and the said River towards y<sup>e</sup> North and upland towards the South."

In 1652, he sold his property in Salem to Harry Bullock, in 1656 purchased additional land in Topsfield, and in 1663. "in consideration of natural affection and the contemplated marriage of their sonn Joseph Towne, with Phebe Perkins, the dau. of Thomas Perkins," he and his wife conveyed to their said son Joseph, two-thirds "of the home wherein they then did dwell, with Barne, out houses, yard, gardens, orchards, lying situate and being in Topsfield, together with a parcel of broken upland by the meddow side, only a cartway reserved between the said land and the meadow towards the South, and the land of Jacob Towne towards the East, and the land of Jacob Towne and Edmund Towne towards the North, and the lands of Isaac Estie towards the West—also another parcel of land broke up and unbroken, containing by estimation thirty acres, bounded by the way towards the South-East and North-East, and a way also towards the South-West; the land of Zacheus Gould and Edmund Towne towards the North-West, and the land of Edmund Towne and Isaac Estie



towards the North. Also, a parcell of meddow lying on the North side of the river, having the river for the bounds towards the South, a highway towards the West, and a way towards the North, and meddow of Jacob Towne towards the East, containing by estimation fourteen acres."

All these conveyances being made with the desire that their said son Joseph should have the first refusal of the remaining third when the same should be for sale. He died about 1672, and from the final settlement of the estate of his widow, she seems to have survived him about ten years. Their children, baptized at Yarmouth, were :

1. Rebecca,\* Feb. 21, 1621; m. Francis Nurse.
2. John, Feb. 16, 1623.
3. Susanna, Oct. 20, 1625.
- +4. Edmund, Jane 28, 1628.
- +5. Jacob, March 11, 1632.
6. Mary,\* Aug. 24, 1634; m. Isaac Esty.

And baptized at Salem :

7. Sarah,\* m. 1st, Jan. 11, 1660, Edward Bridges; 2d, Peter Cloyes.
- +8. Joseph, b. about 1639.†

#### SECOND GENERATION.

##### 4.

II. EDMUND TOWNE, eldest son of William and Joanna Towne, was baptized at Yarmouth, Norfolk Co., England, June 28, 1628; m. Mary, dau. of Thomas Browning; was a member of a committee from the town of Topsfield, who, in 1675, presented a petition to the General Court for leave to form military companies to protect the inhabitants from the Indians while at work, and d. between the date of the presentation of the petition and May 3, 1678, the date of the inventory of his estate. The will of his widow is dated Feb. 1, 1716, and in it she is said to be aged. It was proved Dec. 16, 1717. Joseph was named as administrator, but he d. before his mother, and Thomas and William were appointed.

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\* These sisters suffered terribly during the Witchcraft delusion at Salem in 1692—Rebecca and Mary being executed, and Sarah barely escaping with her life. Note A, appendix, at the end of the volume.

† At a County Court held at Salem in 1660, in the case of Henry Bartholomew plaintiff, Jacob Towne defendant; William, Edmund and Joseph Towne were witnesses, and in their evidence William stated that he was three score years old, Edmund that he was thirty-one years of age, and Joseph that he was about one and twenty; and in the case of Norman vs. Orne, at Ipswich, in 1685, Jacob Towne, Sen., aged about 54 years, testifieth and saith that he lived in Salem in the North fields, that he was there an inhabitant near twelve years, and that he had been absent from there this four and thirty years.



*Children:*

9. Mary.
- +10. Thomas, b. 1655.
11. Sarah, b. April 26, 1657; m. —— Pritchett.
- +12. William, b. March 13, 1659.
- +13. Joseph, b. Sept. 2, 1661.
14. Abigail, b. Aug. 6, 1664; m. Jacob Peabody, Jan. 12, 1686.
15. Benjamin, b. May 26, 1666.
16. Rebecca, b. Feb. 2, 1668; m. —— Knight.
17. Elizabeth, b. Nov. 2, 1669; m. Thomas Wilkins, of Salem, Dec. 19, 1694.
- +18. Samuel, b. Feb. 11, 1673.

5.

II. JACOB TOWNE, son of William and Joanna Towne, was baptized at Yarmouth, Norfolk Co., England, March 11, 1632, resided at Salem, Essex Co., Mass., in the "North Fields," with his father about twelve years; m., June 26, 1657, Catharine, dau. of John Symonds, of Salem: made his will at Topsfield, Nov. 24, 1704, and d. the third day following, aged about 73 years. His will was proved Jan. 1, 1704-5, son John, executor.

*Children:*

- +19. John, b. April 2, 1658.
- +20. Jacob, b. Feb. 13, 1660.
21. Catharine, b. Feb. 25, 1662; m. Elisha Perkins, Feb. 23, 1680.
22. Deliverance, } b. Aug. 5, 1664; } m. John Stiles.
23. Ruth, } b. July 21, 1666.
24. Edmund, b. July 21, 1666.

8.

II. JOSEPH TOWNE, youngest son of William and Joanna Towne, was b. about 1639, and m. Phebe, dau. of Dea. Thomas Perkins, of Topsfield. He accompanied his father in his removal from Salem to Topsfield; was made a freeman, March 22, 1690; was a member of the church at the latter place, and d. 1713, aged 74 years.

*Children:*

25. Phebe, b. May 4, 1666.
26. Joanna, b. Jan. 22, 1668; m. Thomas Nichols, Dec. 15, 1694.
27. Mary, b. March 27, 1670.
28. Susannah, b. Dec. 24, 1671.
- +29. Joseph, b. March 22, 1673.
30. Sarah, b. Dec. 30, 1675.
- +31. John, b. Feb. 20, 1678.
32. Martha, b. May 19, 1680.



## THIRD GENERATION.

## 10.

III. THOMAS TOWNE, son of Edmund and Mary (Browning) Towne, was b. at Topsfield in 1655, and March 17, 1685, m. Sarah French. He was in Captain Lothrop's company at Hatfield, Aug. 12, 1675, and may have been one of the very few of that company, numbering eighty-eight men, who escaped from the fatal encounter with the Indians on the memorable eighteenth of September following, at the battle of Bloody Brook. He was at this time about twenty years of age, and an historian of that period remarks, that "the company was made up of young men, the flower of Essex County, who were not afraid to speak to the enemy within the gate."\* He d. in the early part of 1720, aged 65 years. His sons Edmund and Thomas were his executors.

*Children:*

- +33. Edmund, b. Jan. 28, 1686.
- 34. Experience, bap. June 24, 1688.
- 35. Thomas, bap. Oct. 18, 1691.
- 36. Sarah, b. May 8, 1694.
- 37. Edna, b. Dec. 23, 1696.
- +38. Richard, b. July 16, 1700.
- 39. Mercy, b. July 7, 1703.

## 12.

III. WILLIAM TOWNE, son of Edmund and Mary (Browning) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, March 13, 1659; m., 1st, Eliza, who became the mother of several children, all of whom d. in infancy; 2d, Aug. 22, 1694, Margaret, widow of John Willard, he having been executed at Salem about two years previous, during the witchcraft delusion.

*Children:*

- 40. Mary, b. July 3, 1695.
- 41. William, b. Nov. 22, 1697; d. Dec. 23, 1697, aged 31 days.
- 42. William, b. Feb. 25, 1699.
- +43. Isaae, b. April 10, 1701.
- 44. Ichabod, b. Feb. 18, 1703.
- +45. Jeremiah, b. May 27, 1705.
- 46. Deborah, b. Aug. 16, 1707; m. J. Kenny, of Topsfield, May 1, 1729.
- 47. Mercy, b. Sept. 19, 1709; m. John Towne, Jr., April 22, 1729.
- 48. Keziah, b. Feb. 9, 1715; m. Robert Fitz, of Sutton, Nov. 9, 1739.

## 13.

III. JOSEPH TOWNE, son of Edmund and Mary (Browning) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, Sept. 2, 1661; m. Amy, dau. of Robert Smith, Aug.

---

\* Hubbard's Indian Wars.



10, 1687, and d. in 1717, aged 56 years. She was b. Aug. 16, 1668, and d. Feb. 22, 1756, aged 87 years.

*Children:*

- +49. Benjamin, b. May 10, 1691.
- +50. Nathan, b. 1693.
- +51. Daniel, b. Aug. 22, 1695.
- +52. Jesse, b. Dec. 5, 1697.
- +53. Nathaniel, b. June 1, 1700.
- 54. Amy, b. Feb. 3, 1701.
- +55. Amos, b. July 2, 1709.

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18.

III. SAMUEL TOWNE, son of Edmund and Mary (Browning) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, Feb. 11, 1673; m. Elizabeth Knight, Oct. 20, 1696, and d. in 1714, aged 41 years.

*Children:*

- 56. Elizabeth, b. Sept. 1, 1697.
- 57. Rebecca, b. Feb. 8, 1700.
- +58. Samuel, b. July 5, 1702.
- +59. Philip, b. June 22, 1707.

19.

III. JOHN TOWNE,\* son of Jacob and Catherine (Symonds) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, April 2, 1658, and Feb. 2, 1680, m. Mary Smith. He was an efficient man in town affairs at Topsfield, and administered upon the estate of his father there in 1704. Framingham was incorporated in 1709, and at the first town meeting, holden on the fifth of August, of that year, he was chosen Selectman, and several subsequent years was elected to the same office. He resided at Framingham till 1712, when he removed to Oxford, where he and his sons Israel and Ephraim were proprietors. At the first town meeting holden there, on the 22d of July, 1713, he was chosen Town Clerk and Selectman, and continued to enjoy the confidence of his fellow townsmen for many years. He was one of four persons who met at an early period to deliberate upon the matter of the formation of a church, and at its organization, Jan. 21, 1721, was chosen deacon, which office he held to the close of his life, and was then succeeded by his son Jonathan. His estate was administered upon in 1740.†

*Children:*

- 60. Mary, b. June 23, 1681.
- 61. John, b. Nov. 25, 1682; d. Sept. 29, 1683.
- +62. Israel, b. Nov. 18, 1684.

\* The first of this family, in this country, who spelt his name Town, omitting the *e*.

† Topsfield Town Records. Essex Probate Records. Barry's His. of Framingham. Barber's His. Col. of Mass. Oxford Town and Church Records. Worcester Probate Records.



63. Esther, b. Dec. 13, 1686; m. Simon Mellon.  
 +64. Ephraim, b. 1688.  
 +65. Jonathan, b. March 11, 1691.  
 +66. David, b. 1693.  
 +67. Samuel, b. Jan. 25, 1695.  
 +68. Edmund, b. May 7, 1699.  
 +69. John, b. May 31, 1702.

## 20.

III. JACOB TOWNE, son of Jacob and Catherine (Symonds) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, Feb. 13, 1660, and June 24, 1684, m. Phebe, dau. of Robert Smith. She was b. Aug. 26, 1661, and d. Jan. 14, 1740, aged 79 years. He was admitted to the church Sept. 1, 1717, and d. Oct. 4, 1741, aged 81 years.

*Children:*

70. Joshua, b. Nov. 13, 1684.  
 +71. John, b. Feb. 2, 1686.  
 72. Abigail, b. Dec. 10, 1687.  
 73. Catharine, b. Jan. 2, 1690.  
 +74. Jacob, b. 1693.  
 +75. Gideon, b. Feb. 4, 1696.  
 76. Ruth, b. March 25, 1698.  
 77. Stephen, b. Nov. 2, 1700.  
 +78. Jabez, b. June 15, 1704.  
 +79. Elisha, b. Oct. 25, 1706.

## 29.

III. JOSEPH TOWNE, son of Joseph and Phebe (Perkins) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, March 22, 1673, and Nov. 9, 1699, m. Margaret Case, of Salem.

*Children:*

80. Margaret, b. Aug. 6, 1700.  
 +81. Joseph, b. Dec. 26, 1701.  
 82. Archelaus, b. Aug. 31, 1703.  
 +83. Israel, b. March 24, 1705.  
 +84. Elisha, b. Sept. 5, 1708.  
 85. Bartholomew, b. May 10, 1710.  
 86. Mary, b. Feb. 18, 1712.  
 +87. David, b. Feb. 13, 1715.  
 88. Abigail, b. May 3, 1716.  
 89. Phebe, b. May 31, 1718.  
 90. Hannah, b. Feb. 15, 1720.  
 91. Martha, b. Aug. 25, 1722.  
 92. Sarah, b. April 2, 1726.  
 +93. Jonathan, b. Sept. 6, 1728.

## 31.

III. JOHN TOWNE, son of Joseph and Phebe (Perkins) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, Feb. 20, 1678, and in Jan., 1708, m. Elizabeth Rae, who



d. Dec. 14, 1711. July 12, 1712, he m. Abigail Stanley, and d. March 28, 1714, aged 36 years.

*Children:*

- +94. John, b. Feb. 23, 1709.
- 95. Elizabeth, b. Nov. 22, 1711.
- +96. Bartholomew, b. April 4, 1713.

FOURTH GENERATION.

33.

IV. EDMUND TOWNE, son of Thomas and Sarah (French) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, Jan. 28, 1686, and d. there unmarried in 1741, aged 55 years, leaving his property to his four sisters, Experience, Sarah, Edna and Mercy.

38.

IV. RICHARD TOWNE, son of Thomas and Sarah (French) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, July 16, 1700, and m. 1st, Elizabeth Bixby; 2d, Hannah Bixby. He was Town Clerk at Topsfield from 1749 to Feb. 21, 1765, the date of his death.

*Children:*

- 97. Thomas, b. Dec. 28, 1727.
- 98. Mary, b. Feb. 21, 1729.
- 99. Elizabeth, b. Jan. 30, 1732.
- 100. Sarah, b. Dec. 1734.
- 101. Richard, b. 1737.
- 102. Hannah, b. 1739.

43.

IV. ISAAC TOWNE, son of William and Margaret Towne, was b. at Topsfield, April 10, 1701, m. Lydia Estey, Jan. 7, 1738, and d. at Sutton, where the estate of his widow was settled in 1796.

*Children:*

- 103. Lydia, b. April 5, 1739; m. Robert Fitz, June 2, 1767.
- 104. Isaac, b. Aug. 4, 1741.
- 105. Asa, b. Dec. 2, 1743.
- 106. Eunice.

45.

IV. JEREMIAH TOWNE, son of William and Margaret Towne, was b. at Topsfield, May 27, 1705, and m. Elizabeth ——.

*Children:*

- 107. Jeremiah, b. Sept. 6, 1743.
- 108. Susannah, b. July 8, 1745.
- +109. Nehemiah, b. Oct. 15, 1748.
- 110. William, b. Jan. 16, 1751.



49.

IV. BENJAMIN TOWNE, son of Joseph and Amy (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, May 10, 1691; m. 1st, Catharine, dau. of Jacob Towne, Jr., by whom he had two children, both of whom died in infancy; 2d, April 12, 1722, Susannah Wildes, who d. July 5, 1736, and who about two months before her death became the mother of three healthy male children, all of whom are known to have lived beyond the meridian of manhood; 3d, May 2, 1738, Mary Perkins; and 4th, April 15, 1761, Mrs. Mary Clark. He acquired a large estate for the time in which he lived, and from the records seems to have been a prominent man in town affairs, frequently officiating as Town Clerk, Selectman, Assessor of Taxes, &c. &c., and d. Feb. 11, 1772, aged 81 years.

*Children:*

- +111. Benjamin, b. May 12, 1723.
- +112. Ephraim, b. July 10, 1725.
- +113. Jacob, b.
- 114. Joseph, b. March 7, 1728.
- +115. Eli, b. March 3, 1731.
- 116. Susannah, b. Sept. 6, 1733.
- +117. Edmund, b.
- +118. Ezra, b.
- 119. Elijah, b. April 30, 1736.

50.

IV. NATHAN TOWNE, son of Joseph and Amy (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield in 1693; m. Phoebe ——, resided at Boxford for a time, and then removed to Andover, where she d. Jan. 5, 1762, aged 62 years, and he soon after, aged about 70 years.

*Children:*

- +120. Joseph, b. April 11, 1718.
- 121. Nathan, b. April 25, 1720.
- 122. Jonathan, b.
- 123. Phoebe, b. ; m. —— Farnum.
- 124. Catharine, b. ; m. —— Curtis.
- 125. Asa, b. Aug. 25, 1729.
- 126. Anna, b. ; m. —— Macintire.
- 127. Aaron, b. July 25, 1734.
- 128. Solomon, b.

51.

IV. DANIEL TOWNE, son of Joseph and Amy (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, Aug. 22, 1695, and m. Dorothy.

*Children:*

- 129. Daniel, b. Aug. 11, 1722.
- 130. Amos, b. June 18, 1724.



131. Judith, b. Aug. 26, 1725.  
 132. Dorothy, b. Feb. 8, 1728.  
 133. Thomas, b. Aug. 18, 1729.  
 134. Prudence, b. Nov. 16, 1732.  
 135. Anna, b. March, 9, 1735.  
 +136. Francis, b. July 27, 1737.

52.

IV. JESSE TOWNE, son of Joseph and Amy (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, Dec. 5, 1697, and removed to Arundel, now Kennebunk-port, Maine, where, in 1725, he was a proprietor. He finally settled at Wells, near the "Upper Falls," where he built a house in 1740, and in 1754, when crossing the river, broke through the ice and was drowned. He was a member of the church at Wells in 1750, and from the records seems to have been active in parish affairs: beyond this, but little is known of him. He, however, had a descendant, residing near the original homestead, who was Selectman in Kennebunk in 1847. In 1750 he had sons Joseph and Thomas, who were taxed; and the house which he built was standing in 1770.

*Children:*

+137. Joseph.  
 +138. Thomas.

53.

IV. NATHANIEL TOWNE, son of Joseph and Amy (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, June 1, 1700, and m. Jemima ——.

*Children:*

139. Jemima, b. May 20, 1724.  
 140. Nathaniel, b. Sept. 16, 1725.  
 141. Eunice, b. Feb. 4, 1727.  
 142. Sarah, b. 1729.

55.

IV. AMOS TOWNE, son of Joseph and Amy (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, July 2, 1709; m. Mary Smith, May 30, 1732, and removed to Arundel, now Kennebunk-port, Me. He was one of the hardy men who, under Sir William Pepperrell, captured Louisburg, and, in 1747, was wrecked on Mount Desert and drowned, at the age of about 38 years.

*Children:*

143. Samuel.  
 +144. Amos, b. Oct., 1737.  
 145. Daniel, b. Oct. 28, 1742.

58.

IV. SAMUEL TOWNE, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Knight) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, July 5, 1702; m. Elizabeth Allen, Dec. 21, 1722, and was drowned, May 18, 1771, aged 69 years.



*Children:*

146. Mary, b. July 19, 1723.  
 147. Elizabeth, b. Nov. 10, 1724.  
 +148. Samuel, b. Aug. 8, 1727.  
 149. Hannah, b. Sept. 24, 1733.

59.

IV. PHILIP TOWNE, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Knight) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, June 22, 1707, and July 30, 1728, m., at Salem, Dinah Hobbs.

*Children:*

150. Encas, b. Nov. 18, 1729.  
 151. Dinah, b. Feb. 14, 1734.  
 152. Daniel, b. Aug. 22, 1736.

62.

IV. ISRAEL TOWNE, son of John and Mary (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, Nov. 18, 1684, and m. Susannah, dau. of Dea. Moses Haven, of Framingham. Oxford, Mass., was first permanently settled in 1712. He was a proprietor, and his family was one of the thirty families who then went there to reside. The germ of the first church in this place consisted of four persons, and their first meeting to consult upon the matter was holden at his house. He d. at Oxford, Oct. 29, 1771, aged nearly 87 years, and his widow at Belchertown, in 1787, aged 96 years.

*Children:*

153. Mary, b. at F. Nov. 16, 1709; m. Theodore McKinstry, Jan. 30, 1732.  
 154. Susannah, b. at F. Sept. 11, 1711; d. in infancy.  
 155. Joseph, b. Jan. 20, 1713; d. Oct. 28, 1733, aged 20 years.  
 156. Susannah, b. Feb. 17, 1717; m. John Haven, Oct. 25, 1739, and d. at Sutton, in 1806, aged 89 years.  
 +157. Elijah, b. Feb. 16, 1719.  
 +158. Moses, b. Aug. 14, 1721.  
 159. Esther, b. March 14, 1724.  
 +160. Israel, b. Feb. 12, 1727.  
 161. Lois, b. May 18, 1729; m. John Wilson, 1749.  
 162. Mehitable, b. Dec. 23, 1731.

64.

IV. EPHRAIM TOWNE, son of John and Mary (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, in 1688; resided for a time at Framingham; was a proprietor of the town of Oxford, and one of thirty who first made a permanent settlement at that place.

*Children:*

163. Paul, } b. March 14, 1722.  
 +164. Silas, }



+165. Edmund, b. Aug. 19, 1721.  
 166. Thomas, b. April 1, 1727.

65.

IV. JONATHAN TOWNE, son of John and Mary (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, March 11, 1691, and in 1714 resided at Oxford, where he was deacon of the church, and where he d. in 1771.

*Children:*

+167. Jacob, b. Oct. 29, 1720.  
 168. Tamar, b. Feb. 10, 1722.  
 169. Simon, b. March 26, 1724.  
 170. Jonathan, b. April 26, 1727.  
 171. John, b. Dec. 15, 1728.  
 172. Mary, b. June 4, 1731; m. —— Certis.  
 +173. Josiah, b. Aug. 10, 1734.  
 174. Huldah, b. Nov. 2, 1737; m. Israel Phillips.

66.

IV. DAVID TOWNE, son of John and Mary (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield in 1693, and, for his third wife, m. Priscilla Hovey, who d. at Oxford in 1741. He d. at Belchertown, Sept. 20, 1781, aged 87 years.

*Children:*

175. Francis, b. March 7, 1719; d. Dec. 21, 1729.  
 176. Hannah, b. Sept. 1, 1720.  
 177. Deliverance, b. July, 1726.  
 178. Susannah, b. Aug. 30, 1736.  
 179. Priscilla, b. March 7, 1740.

67.

IV. SAMUEL TOWNE, son of John and Mary (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, Jan. 25, 1695, and April 16, 1722, m. Sarah Lamb, of Oxford. They had one son:

+180. James, b. Oct. 11, 1722.

69.

IV. JOHN TOWNE, son of John and Mary (Smith) Towne, was b. at Framingham, March 31, 1702, and March 6, 1728, m. Lydia Hawkins. Children, b. at Oxford, were:

+181. Thomas, b. May 26, 1729.  
 +182. Abner, b. March 21, 1731.  
 +183. Isaac, b. Aug. 17, 1733.  
 184. Phebe, b. June 16, 1737.  
 185. Lydia, b. May 8, 1740.  
 186. Rachel, b. Nov. 9, 1742.  
 187. Hannah, b. Sept. 24, 1744; m. Collins Moore.  
 +188. Simon, b. Feb. 25, 1748.  
 189. Lydia, b. Sept. 23, 1752; m. William Collins.



## 71.

IV. JOHN TOWNE, son of Jacob and Phebe (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, Feb. 2, 1696, and May 11, 1715, m. Abigail, widow of John Towne, the son of Joseph, her maiden name having been Stanley. Greenwich was called Quabbin previous to its incorporation in 1751, and he settled at the latter place in 1718. His wife was killed by falling down stairs, Sept. 1, 1743.

*Children:*

- +190. Samuel, b. 1717.
- +191. Jonathan, b. May 25, 1719.
- 192. Abigail, b. Sept. 29, 1721.
- 193. Catharine, b. Dec. 14, 1725.
- +194. John, b. Dec. 5, 1729.

## 74.

IV. JACOB TOWNE, son of Jacob and Phebe (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, in 1693, and m. Susannah ——.

*Children:*

- 195. Ruth, b. Sept. 6, 1719.
- +196. Joshua, b. Sept. 3, 1721.
- 197. Jacob, b. June 30, 1724.

## 75.

IV. GIDEON TOWNE, son of Jacob and Phebe (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, Feb. 4, 1696, and m. Hannah ——, who d. at Topsfield, March 25, 1738. He removed to Quabbin, now Greenwich, where he purchased land of Andrew Powers, in 1748. He lived to be aged.

*Children:*

- +198. Abner, b. Feb. 5, 1722.
- +199. Gideon, b. Feb. 21, 1724.
- 200. Hannah, b. Aug. 5, 1727.
- 201. Phebe, b. Aug. 22, 1729.
- 202. Abishai, b. March 1, 1732.

## 78.

IV. JABEZ TOWNE, son of Jacob and Phebe (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, June 15, 1704, and March 30, 1730, m. Tryphenia Dwin nell, who d. April 16, 1785. He d. at Londonderry, N. H., April 1, 1783, aged 79 years.

*Children:*

- +203. Jabez, b. March 4, 1732.
- 204. Mary, b. Oct. 30, 1734; m. Joshua Foster, of Boxford.
- 205. Rebecca, b. June 9, 1737; m. Samuel Smith, of Topsfield.
- +206. Jacob, b. Sept. 25, 1738.
- +207. Elijah, b. Sept. 11, 1740.
- 208. Abigail, b. Dec. 7, 1743; m. Asa Smith, of Vershire, Vt.



209. Ruth, b. Oct. 22, 1746; m. Jacob Hale.  
 210. Susannah, b. Nov. 19, 1749; m. David Porter.

79.

IV. ELISHA TOWNE, son of Jacob and Phebe (Smith) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, Oct. 25, 1706; m. Sarah Rhodes, Feb. 16, 1738, and removed to Boxford.

*Children:*

211. Sarah, b. Jan. 7, 1739; m. Elijah Dwinnell.  
 +212. John, b. Sept. 22, 1740.  
 213. Mehitable, b. Sept. 23, 1742; m. Jacob Dwinnell.  
 +214. Absalom, b. Sept. 24, 1744.  
 215. Bathsheba, b. Oct. 18, 1747; d. July 25, 1830.

81.

IV. JOSEPH TOWNE, son of Joseph and Margaret (Case) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, Dec. 26, 1701, and m. Jemima Bixby. They resided at Topsfield in 1732, where their two first children were born. April 6, 1733, he purchased two hundred and thirty acres of land of John Hallowell, in the parish of Thompson, town of Killingly and State of Conn., for £400, New England currency, and in 1743 made an additional purchase. His wife was dismissed from the church in Topsfield and recommended to the second church in Killingly, Oct. 22, 1738. He d. in March, 1786, aged 84 years, and his widow in 1790.

*Children:*

+216. Archelaus, b. Feb. 26, 1730.  
 217. Jemima, b. Feb. 6, 1732.  
 +218. Joseph, b. Oct. 8, 1735.  
 219. Elizabeth, b. Mar. 27, 1738.  
 220. Margaret, b. May 17, 1739.

83.

IV. ISRAEL TOWNE, son of Joseph and Margaret (Case) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, March 21, 1705, and May 23, 1729, m. Grace Gardner, of Middleton. He was one of the early settlers of Narragansett No. 3, afterwards named Souhegan West, and in 1760 incorporated by New Hampshire, and called Amherst. Tradition says his was the fourth family. The first settlement was made in 1734, and Sept. 22, 1744, at the organization of the church, the plantation contained fourteen families, and amongst the number was that of Capt. Israel Towne. The origin of the Narragansett townships was as follows:—Between 1728 and 1733, the General Court of Massachusetts granted seven townships of land, each of the contents of six miles square, to those and the descendants of those who were in the war of 1675, for the



subjugation of Philip the celebrated Narragansett Sachem, the townships to be selected from the unappropriated lands of the Province, each township being the property of 120 claimants. After a great number of meetings and adjournments of the grantees, the townships were located thus:—Narragansett No. 1, where Buxton in Maine is now situated; Narragansett No. 2, at Westminster, Mass.; No. 3, at Amherst, N. H.; No. 4, at Goffstown, N. H.; No. 5, at Bedford, N. H.; No. 6, at Templeton, Mass.; and No. 7, at Gorham, Me., this territory then being under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts. Israel Towne d. at Amherst, N. H., in 1791, aged 86 years, and Grace, his widow, in 1803, aged 96.

*Children:*

+221.	Thomas,	b.	1732.
+222.	Archelaus,	b.	1734.
+223.	Israel,	b. Nov. 16,	1736.
+224.	Moses,	b.	1738.
+225.	Gardner,	b. June 6,	1741.
226.	Elizabeth,	b. Jan. 30,	1745; d. July 16, 1794, a. 49 yrs.
227.	Susannah,	b. May 28,	1748; m. Timothy Nichols, Oct. 2,
228.	Mary,	b. April 20,	1751. [1779.]

84.

IV. ELISHA TOWNE, son of Joseph and Margaret (Case) Towne, was b. at Topsfield, Sept. 5, 1708; m. Mercy Foster, of Boxford, June 11, 1733, removed from Topsfield to Monson, now Milford, N. H., where, Dec. 22, 1718, he and his brother Israel, for £1000, purchased the Taylor farm, consisting of 300 acres, of Widow Abigail Taylor, of Boston. His house was upon the opposite side of the river from that of his brother, was located upon an eminence overlooking the valley of the Souhegan, affording one of the most picturesque views in the neighborhood. It stood about fifty rods north of the present East Milford Rail Road Flag Station, and the spot is marked by an old nearly filled cellar, surrounded by locust trees. He died about 1791, was buried in a field about one third of a mile east of where the above described house was located, a spot used by the early settlers for a place of burial, but which has not been thus used since about the close of the last century.

*Children:*

229.	Joseph,	b.	1739; d. in infancy.
+230.	Bartholomew,	b. April 8,	1741.
+231.	Thomas,	b. Feb. 8,	1743.
232.	Mercy,	b. Feb. 15,	1745.
233.	Sarah,	b. Nov. 20,	1747.













